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The Michigan Women's Commission is proud to support legislation to allow second parent adoptions in Michigan. Second parent adoption ensures permanency and creates legal relationships with two parents, thereby increasing the financial security of the child and preventing costs to the taxpayer. Without second parent adoption, a child is not entitled to the health insurance benefits of the other parent, nor is she entitled to the social security benefits of that parent. If a child loses her only legal parent, she is not entitled to financial support by the other parent without second parent adoption. These problems and others could be easily solved with passage for HB 4259 as introduced by Representative Paul Condino.

National experts including the American Pediatric Association, American Psychological association, Child Welfare League of America, North American Council on Adoptable Children and the American Academy of Family Physicians agree that it is in the child's best interest to have his/her actual parents legally recognized as such. Additionally, the American Bar Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the Child Welfare League of America, the North American Council on Adoptable Children, and the American Academy of Pediatrics are some of the other organizations that support second parent adoption. We are proud to join them in advocating for this change.

This legislation would correct an inequity that impacts women as well as girls. We urge the Legislature to pass this needed legislation.